

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes new Figs. 6A and 6B. This new Sheet 4A includes a cut-away view of an illustrative embodiment vest of claim 6, and a cut-away view of an illustrative embodiment flexible armor of claim 10 configured to be used as a shield or mat.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

Reconsideration and reversal of the rejections presented in the Office Action dated February 10, 2005 are respectfully requested in light of the following.

The Examiner is thanked for all of the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephonic interview of April 5, 2005. During this interview, independent claims 1, 15, and 21 were discussed, along with U.S. Patent No. 2,009,325 to Sachs (hereinafter "Sachs") and U.S. Patent No. 3,908,571 to Motsenbocker (hereinafter "Motsenbocker").

During the aforementioned interview, the Examiner agreed that the current amendments as presented would overcome the outstanding objections to the drawings and the specification. More particularly, new Figs. 6A and 6B are provided to show a cut-away of an illustrative embodiment vest, and a cut-away of an illustrative embodiment flexible armor member. Paragraphs [0024.1], [0024.2] and [0040] of the specification have been amended to include language describing Figs. 6A and 6B.

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sachs.

During the telephonic interview of April 5, 2005, an agreement was reached with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 15. More particularly, the Examiner agreed that claims 1 and 15 as currently amended distinguishes over Sachs. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 15, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 21, 22 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachs in view of Motsenbocker.

As discussed during the aforementioned telephonic interview, the applicant respectively submits that there is simply no teaching or suggestion in Motsenbocker that would motivate one of ordinary in the art to modify Sachs and arrive at the present invention as recited in independent claim 21. More particularly, the round braids or cord edges 4 and 5 disclosed in Sachs are provided to give an edge finish to the belt body A. In fact, these braids 4 and 5 are preferably contrasted in color with the other colors of the belt body A in order to provide an aesthetically pleasing appearance. Further, it is understood that the belt body A may be edged for ornamental and strengthening purposes and that the belt thereby readily reversible in use. Since the braids 4 and 5 in Sachs are intended to be viewed and provide an aesthetically pleasing appearance, there is no teaching or suggestion to provide a protective cover of the type shown in

Motsenbocker. Moreover, such a protective cover would obscure the braids 4 and 5 and thereby thwart the intent in Sachs of providing an aesthetically pleasing appearance by showing the braids 4 and 5. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 and the claims dependent therefrom are properly allowable.

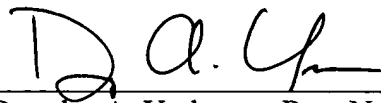
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the solicited claims are in condition for allowance. Such, action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's kind attention is directed to the supplemental information disclosure statement which is submitted concurrently herewith.

If necessary, applicants request that this response be considered a request for an extension of time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this amendment be charged to the account of Baker & Daniels, Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below should any question or comment arise during reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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